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3/10/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Kazunori SAITO et al

GROUP ART UNIT: 1641

SERIAL NO: 08/893,759

EXAMINER: CHIN

FILED: July 11, 1997



FOR: IMMUNOASSAY

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RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Final Rejection dated December 19, 2000, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks and the enclosed Opinion of Mr. Kazunori Saitoh.

REMARKS

Claims 7-34 remain active in the present application.

The present invention relates to an immunoassay for detecting an antigen in a sample. An important feature of the present method is that two antibodies are used to bind the antigen, and each antibody is contacted with the sample sequentially to form an agglutinate comprising the antigen and the two antibodies (see (i) and (ii) in Claims 7 and 21). An important feature of the claimed method is that one of the antibodies has high specificity for the antigen while the other antibody does not have strict specificity for the antigen (see the last two lines of Claims 7 and 21). The present inventors have discovered that this two-step antibody binding reaction provides a assay method having high sensitivity and low cost.

AF/GP1641 AF

"RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING
GROUP 1641"

Docket No.: 1587-0024-0



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RE: Application Serial No.: 08/893,759
Applicants: Kazunori SAITO et al.
Filing Date: July 11, 1997
For: IMMUNOASSAY
Group Art Unit: 1641
Examiner: CHIN

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SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Response After Final Rejection w/attached Comments of Mr. Saitoh (5 pages/executed)

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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